

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Nielsen, James T.; et. al.  
Assignee: Cardica, Inc.  
Title: Surgical System and Method for Connecting Hollow Tissue Structures  
Serial No.: 10/720,618 Filing Date: November 24, 2003  
Examiner: Natalie R. Pous Group Art Unit: 3731  
Docket No.: 142

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the Applicant's duty under 37 CFR § 1.56, the information listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. In addition, Assignee's attorney points out recently-concluded interference no. 105,246. This interference was between a parent, U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,038, of this patent application, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/243,543. That interference may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, and the identification of that interference shall not be construed as an admission that it is material or considered to be material (37 CFR § 1.97(h)). Further, the identification of that interference shall not be construed as an admission that any claims involved therein were patentably indistinct from any claims in the present application, or that the subject matter of the interference was in any way related to or similar to the subject matter of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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